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Clinical Image

Foramen Magnum Stenosis in Achondroplasia

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Achondroplasia is the most common hereditary skeletal dysplasia and is characterized by disproportionately short stature with rhizomelic short extremities [1]. The skull features include a narrowed foramen magnum, short skull base, and clivus [2].

Foramen magnum stenosis is a characteristic funding, secondary to an abnormal placement and premature fusion of the posterior synchondroses [1]. The second factor responsible for stenosis is a defect in endochondral ossification in the basiocciput that may result in an extension of the squamous occipital bone [2]. It can cause hydrocephalus and prominent emissary and meningeal veins (Figure 1).

The most severe complication is the compression of the cervicomedullary junction, associated with severe morbidity and sudden death in younger children [1].

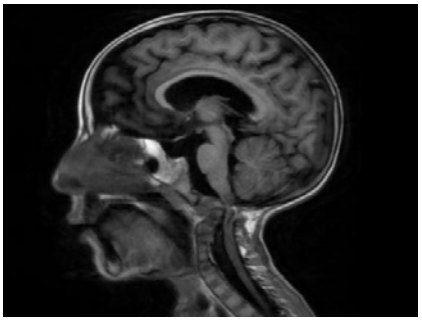

Figure 1: Sagittal T1WI revealing a narrowed stenosis of the foramen magnum and compression of the cervicomedullary junction.

Author Contributions

All authors contributed equally to this work.

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